

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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USIA-06 HA-05 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00
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S E C R E T PORT AU PRINCE 0345

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR HA
SUBJ: U.S. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN HAITI

REF: STATE 295662

1. I HAVE REVIEWED THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OUTLINED IN REFTEL
WITH MY COUNTRY TEAM AND HAVE A NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE.

2. REFTEL DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY DELINEATE PRIORITIES, BUT IT
DOES LIST OBJECTIVES SO THAT HUMAN RIGHTS WOULD APPEAR TO BE
OUR PRIMARY GOAL. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT GOALS I AND II
SHOULD BE REVERSED TO EMPHASIZE THAT, IN A COUNTRY AS POOR AS
HAITI, WHERE A LARGE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE ARE BARELY
SUBSISTING, OUR CONCERN WITH ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
SHOULD TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER POLITICAL PROGRESS. OR, AS
PRESIDENT CARTER PUT IT IN INDIA, HUMAN NEEDS ARE THE MOST
IMPORTANT HUMAN RIGHTS.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS AN IMPORTANT LINK BETWEEN HUMAN
NEEDS AND HUMAN RIGHTS; THAT THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
IMPLIES INCREASED ATTENTION TO HUMAN NEEDS; BUT ALSO THAT

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ENHANCE POLITICAL PROGRESS.
WITH SO MANY HAITIANS SO CLOSE TO THE MARGIN, WE BELIEVE THAT
OUR PRIMARY CONCERN MUST BE DEVELOPMENT.

3. ASIDE FROM ESTABLISHING AN ORDER OF PRIORITIES, WE HAVE A
NUMBER OF TEXTUAL AMANDMENTS OR ADDITIONS TO SUGGEST. THEY ARE
SET OUT BELOW USING REFTEL FORMAT WITH APPROPRIATE COMMENTARY.

4. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.

A. ASSISTANCE IN EFFORTS TO ALLEVIATE HAITI'S GREAT POVERTY AND UNDERDEVELOPMENT.

--ENCOURAGE THE GOH PROGRESSIVELY TO INCREASE ITS COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPMENT BY MOBILIZING IN A MUCH MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND EFFECTIVE MANNER ITS HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES, AND BY APPLYING THEM TO PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

--IN U.S. ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS GIVE PRIORITY TO IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS FOR HAITI'S RURAL POOR AND TO INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION WITH THE GOAL OF LESSENING HAITI'S GROWING DEPENDENCY ON FOOD IMPORTS.

--EMPHASIZE STRENGTHENING OF THE KEY RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRIES--AGRICULTURE, HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND PUBLIC WORKS--TO MAKE PROGRAMS OF NATIONAL SCOPE POSSIBLE.

--CONTINUE TO IMPROVE COORDINATION AMONG FOREIGN DONORS WITH RESPECT TO GOH PERFORMANCE AND EXTERNALLY FINANCED PROJECTS.

--PROMOTE BETTER UNDERSTANDING BY HAITIANS OF THE NATURE, SCOPE AND PHILOSOPHY OF U.S. ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

--PROMOTE THE CREATION OF MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN HAITI THROUGH ENCOURAGEMENT OF AN IMPROVED INVESTMENT CLIMATE, BOTH TO IMPROVE LIVING STANDARDS AND ALLEVIATE PRESSURES FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION TO THE U.S.

--CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAMS OF U.S. PRIVATE VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS WHICH BRING SERVICES TO THE RURAL POOR.

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B. PROMOTION OF IMPROVED HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES BY THE GOH.

--SUSTAIN A CONTINUING DIALOG WITH ALL INFLUENTIAL ELEMENTS AND OPINION MOULDERS WITHIN AND WITHOUT THE GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE OUR HUMAN RIGHTS OBJECTIVES. (NOTE: THE MAIN OBJECTIVE HERE IS A BROAD SPECTRUM OF CONTACTS IN A VERY COMPLEX SOCIETY.)

--IN THESE CONTACTS, ENCOURAGE THE GOH TO HONOR ITS COMMITMENT TO INVITE AN IAHRM MISSION TO VISIT HAITI.

--ADVOCATE DUE PROCESS AND IMPROVED TREATMENT OF PRISONERS, AND HEIGHTEN HAITIAN UNDERSTANDING OF THESE CONCEPTS. (NOTE: WE FEEL IT IS MORE ACCURATE TO DEFINE OUR GOAL AS DUE PROCESS WITHOUT SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE HAITIAN CONSTITUTION.)

C. ENCOURAGEMENT OF GREATER PARTICIPATION IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE CARIBBEAN REGION.

--FOSTER INSTITUTIONAL LINKAGES BETWEEN HAITI AND ITS CARIBBEAN NEIGHBORS, INCLUDING THE U.S., AS MEANS TO BREAK DOWN HAITI'S TRADITIONAL ISOLATION.

--ENCOURAGE HAITIAN/DOMINICAN CONSULTATIONS AND COLLABORATION.

--ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT HAITIAN MEMBERSHIP IN CARIBBEAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES.

D. HAITIAN SUPPORT ON GLOBAL ISSUES.

--CONVEY TO HAITIAN OFFICIALS OUR APPRECIATION OF HAITI'S
CLOSE COOPERATION ON GLOBAL ISSUES.

--SEEK CONTINUED HAITIAN COOPERATION ON GLOBAL ISSUES.

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